



THE **VOICE** OF
THE **CRIMINAL**
DEFENCE BAR

MEMBER PROFILE QUESTIONS

INTRO :

Member Name : Cassandra Richards

Region/ City : Ottawa

Board position: Ottawa Director & Co-chair of the Legislation Committee

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I work at [Bayne Sellar Ertel Macrae](#) located in Ottawa. I'm fortunate that my practice spans multiple jurisdictions, including Ontario, Quebec, and Nunavut.



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QUESTIONS :

1- If there is one thing only you would like to see change in criminal law, what would it be?

Public legal education should be a priority. We expect people to follow the law, yet most are never meaningfully taught it. Ignorance of the law is not a defence—but how fair is that when so many don't know the rules they're expected to follow? Take something as common as a valid breath demand: how many people know they cannot refuse it? Legal literacy shouldn't be reserved for those who work in the system. It should start early, be built into school curricula, and remain accessible throughout people's lives. A more informed public is not only better equipped to navigate the justice system—it strengthens it.

2- What advice would you give to your younger self when you first started practising criminal law?

The practice of law is a marathon, not a sprint!

3- What's your favourite song?

That's a tough question—I love music. But a few go-tos I always come back to are Untitled by D'Angelo, Pretty Wings by Maxwell, and Dance Tonight by Lucy Pearl.



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4- What do you do outside of the law?

In another life, I was a varsity athlete, and I still carry that passion with me. I love staying active. I'm also a big fan of hosting themed dinner parties, especially when it involves

creating a unique cocktail to match the vibe. Outside of that, I enjoy following politics and getting out to music events whenever I can.